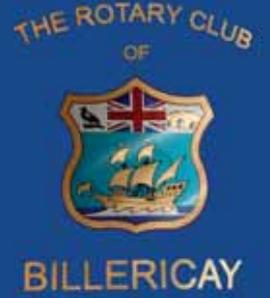




Rotary Club of Billericay

# News



June 2019

*"Service Above Self"*

June 2019

## Another KidsOut Success



Best Club Newsletter  
in District 1240  
2015-16, 2016-17 & 2017-18

**Rotary**  
Billericay



**Rotary GB&  
Best Club  
Bulletin 2017  
& 2018**



Best Club Website  
in District 1240  
2014-15 & 2015-16

# President's Message

## Inspiration? We Were Always Up For It

**W**here did the year go? It seems just a few weeks since I was passed the president's chain and now I'm looking back as my year comes to its end. In contrast to Gilbert & Sullivan's policeman I found my lot to be a happy one and I thoroughly enjoyed my year, which is just as well as it will all start again in 12 months' time.

The challenge R.I. President Barry Rassin gave us at the start of the year was to 'Be the Inspiration' and we can say we achieved this in many ways. Here are just a few, in which we either provided direct inspiration ourselves or supported inspiring events organised by others:

- With our flagship event, the Soapbox Derby we inspired groups of people to build soapboxes to entertain others and to raise funds for charity. We inspired thousands to turn out on a chilly day to enjoy the entertainment.
- We inspired the young members of our two RotaKids clubs to do things to serve our community and raise money for their chosen charities. We hope this experience will stay with them and that, as adults, they will continue to want to do something to serve their community.
- We supported the Friends of Lake Meadows photographic competition, which inspires people to have a go at photography even though they may not have an elaborate camera.
- Similarly, we supported the Town Council's 'Billericay in Bloom' competition which inspires people to help make our town a more beautiful place.

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### *Kids Out Day*

But it's not all about inspiration. Sometimes it's just about serving the community, and this month we had just such an event with the Kids Out day for the children from Thriftwood school. See the report on pages 3-5.

A notable first was the double triangular friendship weekend hosted by the Rotary Club of Ovada. We had an excellent time seeing the sights, atmosphere and culture of their region.

No round-up of the year would be complete without noting the great success of our fourth Soapbox Derby. As a club we can be proud to have created something so popular that it has become an institution and people now ex-

pect it to happen annually. Given that expectation, we took the sad and reluctant decision to no longer run it ourselves. However, it appears that discussions are going well and we hope Mayflower will agree to take it over.

During the year Bert lined up a wide range of interesting talks, including two of his own, as a result of which I now know that for the past 60 years I have completely misunderstood the point of ploughing.

### *Membership Focus*

My one disappointment is that, despite Peter Strong's best endeavours and some encouraging indications of interest, we did not find any new members during the year. We must obviously keep this as a focus for next year.

In closing, I'd like to thank all who helped make my life easier as president, particularly: Ben, my vice-president, who covered my occasional absences and steered the service committee meetings politely but firmly each month; Ed, whose efficient organisation ensured that each week I was provided with a comprehensive agenda and any extras or changes were pointed out; and Peter for his timely reminders when deadlines were coming up, decisions were needed or things needed organising. Thanks too to all the other club officers that space does not allow me to name individually but who all played their part in ensuring things ran well.

So we now look forward to the new year, with Ben leading the club in its 60th (and in his 90th) year. ***Over to you, Ben!***

# Kids Out - Having Fun



*Thriftwood School - All the Kids! Who is the big Kid in the middle!*



*Spotted Pigs!!*



*This is Fun!*



*What's in here then?*



*Go on, Stroke him. He doesn't bite*

# KidsOut for Thriftwood Kids

## *Wet, Wet, Wet, But Fun Down On The Farm*

**F**or the past two years it has been a case of shade, shade, shade to protect from the heat. This year, more shelter than shade as the overcast morning became a rainy afternoon.

All, however, in stark contrast to the sunny smiles on the faces of the children from Thriftwood School as they stepped from their coach at Old MacDonalds Farm near Brentwood, wearing their Rotary Kids Out T-shirts.

There to meet them and their helpers on behalf of the club were Keith Wood who had organised the day, plus Peter Strong, Mike Sinclair and Les Sheppard. We were met by our guides for the day and taken to our reserved classroom, though this could only take about two thirds of the children so we were also allocated an overflow room.

Each child was given a Kids Out baseball cap (a great help later for spotting where our children were on the site) and the children and their helpers were then free to explore for half an hour before the first of the guided petting tours was due. We took that opportunity to unload the lunches (generously provided by past-club member

Tina Joyce) from Keith's car and set them out on the tables in our two rooms.

### *Health and Safety First*

By the time we had done this the first group of children and helpers were gathering ready for their 'meet the animals' tour. Our group leader welcomed everyone and

## *Les Sheppard reports on a soggy success*

went through the obligatory health and safety rules before leading the way to the first stop - feeding the pigs.

Once everyone had had a turn, it was off to the next stop to meet



the goats, and so on through rabbits, meerkats, sheep, deer, young chickens, hedgehogs, a Shetland pony, and not forgetting the alpaca. All were either stroked, fed, or both. As we left the various feeding points, we would look back to see a flock of birds swooping down, eager to snap up the many food pellets missed by the animals.

With twenty minutes or so to spare before lunch the children and their helpers had time to explore some of the amusements. The Peppa Pig train ride proved very popular. Up to this point the rain had just about held off but now it began to get a little

*(continued on Page 5)*



# KidsOut (continued)



(continued from Page 4)  
heavier, prompting the donning of raincoats, and this weather continued for the rest of the day.

## Lunch is served



And so to lunch. Following our preparation earlier, there was a lunch bag in front of each seat, containing a round of sandwiches, a packet of crisps, a soft drink, a piece of fruit and a large cookie biscuit.

All the children found a seat and then began the chaotic process of swapping sandwich packs to cater for individual likes and dislikes of fillings. The same was then repeated for the crisp flavours and the pieces of fruit (it seems that pears are not a popular choice for the younger generation).



There were some spare packs, due to some children having special dietary conditions or parents not heeding that lunch was being provided, so everyone's choice could be satisfied.

After lunch the second of the three groups gathered for their guided tour and the rest were able to explore the other site facilities while we cleared tables and packed up what unopened crisps and drinks were left over to give, as in the past, to the school staff for adding to their own party event coming up in the next few days.

Sandwich packs weren't going to be any good next day, so Keith passed these on to the Old MacDonald's staff.

Everyone gathered in the soft play hall before the end, and the children and helpers lined up for a group picture and to say "Thank you Rotary" for a wonderful day. Happy faces clearly showed they'd all had a great time, despite afternoon rain.

The first Rotary KidsOut National Day Out started 29 years ago. It was so successful that today it takes more than 25,000 disadvantaged children on a National Day Out each year.

Our involvement again this year was just one of the hundreds of groups of children entertained as part of the Rotary Kids Out event nationally.

What a lot of fun!

# Chernobyl Children's Life Line

## *Doughnuts And Trampolines Get The Show On The Road*

**F**ollowing the nuclear disaster of April 26, 1983, over 30 years ago, large areas of Ukraine were contaminated by the radiation from Chernobyl. For the sixth year in a row our Rotary Club is supporting the Essex Branch of the Chernobyl Children's Life Line.

It is all about respite and making a difference which is why we are delighted to again be involved. Twelve children from Ukraine, living just outside the exclusion area, are in the area to be entertained for four weeks. It has been calculated that each four-week visit gives these innocent kids another two years of life!

We have supported this group by funding selected excursions during the stay. This year - the trip to Rope Runners and to Thriftwood Scout Camp.

Six boys and six girls, all around nine or ten years of age make up the party, accompanied again by their leader Svitlana Sakahanda.



### ***Great Welcome***

The visit is not only a schedule of fun, but also an opportunity to pick out clothes for themselves and their siblings, generously donated by supporters of the charity, plus visits to the dentist and opticians which are not possible at home because they come from poor families.

The remaining programme is about fun and adventure, providing them with plenty of stories to tell their families, friends and schoolmates back in Ukraine.

We began by joining the "Welcome Party and Barbecue" at Stockbrook Nursery on Friday June 21, for the children, the hosting families and the sponsors. The club was represented by Past President Peter Greene.

### ***Hamburgers and Hot Dogs***

First off, the children have the run of the play areas, bouncing away on the trampolines, hurtling along the aerial zip-wire, using the bouncy castle or the climbing nets. They are young children, so communication with their hosts' children is a challenge, but somehow, they manage!



Fun is followed by the barbecue and a choice of hamburgers and hot-dogs (and vegetarian alternatives) *(continued on page 12)*



# Speakers' Corner

## *A Roving We Shall All Go - From Athens To Kathmandu*



**B**rian Hughes is a Rotarian, a former member of Mayflower Rotary club and also of Shenfield RC. He is also ASIAMAN ...Hughes Overland at 106 High Street, Billericay, Essex, England,

He explained all when he talked to us on Monday, June 3. Formerly born in Northamptonshire, he went to Kettering Grammar School and studied Latin, Greek, French and German; later moved and went to Brentwood school and gained a State Scholarship to Cambridge.

It was at Brentwood that he became involved with taking student parties abroad. First with a Brentwood scout group to Greece; later mini-treks with students to Italy, Greece and Turkey.

### ***Adventure And Excite- ment***

So began ASIAMAN. He set up a company which has transported students all round Europe with fleets of mini-buses to Athens and moving on to such countries as Russia and Morocco.

He said: "During the last three years, Asiaman has earned itself a reputation for adventure and excitement on

the overland route through Europe and Asia. We travel in small groups by Land Rover station wagon and Ford transit minibus – no coaches, no army trucks and no "old heaps"

"We have complete confidence in each type of vehicle, and we know we will reach our destinations and usually on schedule. Not a luxury tour nor an easy drive, but an enormously rewarding journey provided it is entered into the spirit of adventure it deserves."

Why a talk title of Kathmandu? "Now we have

three ASIAMAN terminals in Asia - Kathmandu, Singapore and Sydney," said Brian. "You could travel all the way from England to any of these cities by ASIAMAN."

Overland to Kathmandu and on to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Perth, and Australia, New Zealand, options that, as Brian said: "Open up a world of adventure." To Kathmandu can cost as little as a mere £85 for 43 days direct.

### ***Everest Hero On Board***

On one occasion Sir John Hunt, conqueror of Everest, and his wife joined an excursion to Kathmandu. "Great companionship, great group, was Sir John's verdict", said Brian.

Places like Istanbul, Tehran, Afghanistan and Indonesia were added. "Our Ford transits could do 200 miles a day on the way to Kathmandu.

We faced new regulations when we entered the Common Market in 1973 and things like the Algerian war did not help. Going through India we painted the Ford trucks white and saffron to keep everyone happy. And we could do 200 miles a day on cheap patrol"

A wonderful, exciting talk. Too much to record all here. But Brian does have a book in process: *A Law Unto Myself* – must be worth a read.



# Speakers' Corner

## Limbering Up - A Challenge In Jaipur

In a letter of thanks to secretary Ed for our hospitality, as our guest speaker on June 24, and our cheque for £100, Margaret Webb from Rotary Jaipur Limb project said: "This cheque alone will give three amputees a new limb and new, independent lives that they can live with dignity. I have seen the gratitude on the faces of the recipients and they ask me to pass on their thanks to those in the UK who made this possible."

This was the theme of Margaret's talk – a talk accompanied by a video featuring the involvement of celebrity Paul Merton and his work for the project in a poor and desperate corner of India.

*(Ed: We all know how to press a wrong button and "lose" the video we were desperate to watch. It happened for poor Margaret. Red face, blushes and massive apology. Then our IT geek – sorry, genius – Peter rushed to the rescue and normal service was resumed!)*

### Plight And Polio

This hiatus did nothing to lessen Margaret's powerful talk where she spelt out the plight of so many victims of disease, malnu-

trition and, inevitably, polio in the Jaipur region. Cost help, she said, was everything.

The facts.

- 20,000 victims need limbs every year
- Takes four years to balance the right limbs for children
- For just £25-£40 a person can have a new limb and a new life
- At a limb camp 600 people can get a new limb for £18,000, £30 each to restore their dignity.

Polio has had devastating effects, causing deformity and distress.

### Humiliation

"Missing or useless limbs means lack of dependence, loss of dignity and humiliation." she added.

"This is our challenge – to provide limbs suited to the environment in which they are



*Queuing at the Limb Camp*

used, even in water and barefoot. Because they cost little, a large number of amputees and polio victims can be helped for relatively small sums of money."

She urged us to find more answers on their website: <http://www.rotaryjaipurlimb.org.uk>

Postscript: After our lunch Margaret went in the evening with members of her Bishops Stortford Rotary club to play boules against Colchester RC in the Hugh Markham Trophy. She says: "I was unable to do justice to the excellent refreshments served since I was still full of fish and chips! And, oh! we lost. I think by own lack of form but the others were too gentlemanly to say so."



# Colchester RotaKids Conference

## Goal! Buttsbury Puts On a Winning Show

**O**n Friday, June 21 eight members of our School Council and Core 5 RotaKids committee represented Buttsbury Junior School at the Colchester RotaKids Conference, which was held at Colchester United Football Club.

They had an extremely productive day, interacting with other schools and meeting other members of RotaKids Clubs from schools within and around Essex. After an extremely enjoyable afternoon, presenting all their successes this year they delved



into a delicious buffet, courtesy of Rotary.

The children were true assets to our school, demonstrating a high level of maturity and speaking confidently in front of an audience. The children were then lucky enough to enjoy the views in the Jobserve stadium!

I would like to thank the School Council and particularly the

RotaKids Committee this year for their hard work and dedication to their roles – it has been a pleasure working with them!

Thank you also to Mrs Hall and Mrs Felton for assisting with the transportation of the children and to Rotary for helping us to run such fantastic events! Here's to another year of fundraising!

*By Headteacher, Ann Robinson*



# Pride Cometh Before A Fall

## As Two Members Found Out Recently

**E**ver sat an exam when you looked at the paper and your mind went blank? It

can happen with quizzes, as two of our members and friends found out recently.

Our Club has a record of performing well in quizzes and we have gained major success in recent attempts. However, as they say, you can't win them all.

As Mike and Sue Ginn found out

recently. Mike says: "Normally, Sue and I do fairly well. But we recently went to a quiz where we hardly knew any answers.

"The marathon was about Beatles songs. They gave about 25 songs where all you had was the first letter of each word in the song title. I looked down

*(continued on Page 10)*

# Pride Cometh Before A Fall

*(continued from Page 9)*

the list and the only one I recognised was HJ - Hey Jude. There was another round where they played a piece of pop music and the question was to identify the group or artist who was singing. When the answers came out, there was only one group I had ever heard of.

## Actor Who?

"Another round was to identify an actor from ten clues about him. You submitted your answer as soon as you had it. I had never heard of the actor – so no chance." Relief came at last with a history round. "Suddenly our brains were in gear. We got all ten!

"A chastening evening. There are definite boundaries to where I am useful in a quiz. But it did raise £1000 for charity"

Secretary Ed and Laurence fared



no better when they joined friends from Basildon Rotary Club who ran a quiz night at Little Burstead Hall on June 1 in aid of Kool Carers. Mark, Lisa and Keira Hambleton ran the quiz .

## Excellent venue

"It was our first visit to Little Burstead Hall," says Ed, "and it was an excellent venue for a quiz. That said, it would be good to report a success but, despite the inclusion in our team of such lu-

minaries as Mike Goldsmith, Bob Thomas and Jill Wind, we were vying for last place throughout the evening.

"The fish and chips at half time were excellent but did nothing to improve our efforts as we scored poorly in each round.

"One team has to come last and we did enjoy our booby prize of each a bag of sherbet lemons. Good news. The event raised over £400 for the charity."

## Club Assembly 2019-20

**B**en Clarke was welcomed as the incoming club president for 2019-2020 at Club Assembly on Monday, June 10.

Having been duly elected, Ben, as president-elect, gave a brief outline of his hopes and aims for the club in the coming year.

It will be Ben's fourth term as president.

Reports by Service Committee chairmen, and officers-elect were circulated after an excellent buffet lunch provided by Reids restaurant. AG David Eagles, representing District Governor Lesley Sulley also gave a short address, praising the Club for its

much charity support in the past year, especially the success of the Soapbox Derby.

Officers elected: President: Ben Clarke; Vice-president: Les Shep-

pard; Secretary: Ed Harrison; Treasurer: Mike Ginn; Assistant secretary:

Norman Bishop. Club Council: Malcolm Acors (Foundation & International); Trevor Bond (PR & Communications); Peter Greene (IT); Patrick Rothern (Club Protection Officer); Mike Sinclair (Youth Service); Ken Smith (Speaker Finder); Peter Strong (Membership Development); Keith Wood (Community Service & Vocational) and Roger Kettle.

**Back Again –  
Welcome Ben**

## Guess Who?



I wonder who this is?  
Answers on a postcard to the Editor please

# Five Go To Rugby

## (... With apologies to Enid Blyton)

**W**ell... maybe not the "Famous Five" but five intrepid adventurers from our club set off early in June to visit HQ – the home of English rugby at Twickenham stadium. Bert and Peter chauffeured by Roger Kettle, and Keith separately, driven by Mike Sinclair.

An easier and faster journey than usual. So, what had drawn our travellers to this outpost in the west, far from the safer climes of Essex? Drink? No – although there was more than a sufficiency of that. Food? No – although they feasted at Zizzi's famous hostelry in Twickenham Town. The camaraderie? Yes – they all shared a love of the game of rugby union. But most of all – the chance to see two England teams take on the Barbarians at the game's ancestral home.

### English Roses

No, not the type grown by the Royal Horticultural Society and gracing the Chelsea Flower show, nor those shortly to be on display in July at the Hampton Court Flower Show, just down the road in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace.

No these "Red Roses" were the English Women's team, gracing the turf of Twickenham stadium in front of a crowd of over 19,000 spectators, facing an invitational team of internation-



al women players drawn from around the world, and proudly wearing the team strip of the women's Barbarians. The Barbarians women started in 2017-18 with wins over Munster and the British Army but only played their first international in April 2019.

The Red Roses did us proud. 28-0 leaders at half time, with a try disallowed just before the interval, they came home worth winners with Lark Davies scoring a hat-trick out of six tries in a 40-14 win.

Most impressive of all was the style, skill and professionalism with which they dealt with their opponents.

### Great Enthusiasm, Short Experience

Then, along with 40,000 others, we were ready for the main event – a young England team coached by Jim Mallinder against the world-famous Barbarians. The premiership final between Saracens and Exeter the day before ruled out top players as did the potential players in the world cup. It was still a young England team full of enthusiasm, short on experience.

In an entertaining and high scoring game, England won by 51 to 43. They quickly gained a 19 point lead before

the Barbarians hit back with two quick tries, but England re-established its lead before half time.

The break was a great opportunity to stretch the legs, stock up



on liquid refreshments and enjoy the atmosphere, the sights and the sounds before the second half started. England scored another try shortly after half-time, and despite the Barbarians staging a comeback with four tries, an outstanding display nudged England further ahead with a penalty, and another try to seal the victory and leave the hosts out of reach despite a late Barbarian score.

Our famous five had enjoyed a feast of brilliant rugby, two England victories, great food, great drink and great fellowship before winding their weary way home.

*By Peter Greene*



# Chernobyl (continued)

(continued from Page 6)  
as well as the healthier option  
of salads. Finally, a choice of

doughnuts to tempt us all.  
Time for home after a final run  
on the trampolines and other

equipment. A great time and we  
wish them all the best for the  
future in the Ukraine.



## Members' Musings - A Mick From Stepney

**W**e all meet fellow  
Rotarians wherever  
we go – but not  
often in Edmonds, Washington  
State, USA!

Ken Smith did when he took the  
opportunity to attend a Rotary  
meeting there when on a recent  
visit to the States. "It's a club of  
about 60 members," reported  
Ken, "chartered in 1951. A very  
lively crowd with an average age

somewhat younger than our own  
(who isn't, Ken!).

"What was similar they met at  
lunchtime in a local restaurant.  
Forty members, simple fayre,  
a sandwich and a drink. Above  
all friendly and I enjoyed the  
fellowship.

" We were photographed  
together when I exchanged  
banners with their president

David and when I explained the  
significance of the Mayflower  
ship, one of their members told  
me that, in tracing his family  
tree, she had learned of a distant  
connection with passengers of  
the 1620 crossing."

At the end of the meeting, a  
member approached Ken and  
said: "Hi, I'm Mick. I come from  
Stepney. Our planet gets ever  
and ever smaller!

### *Birthday Congratulations to Patrick Rotheron (July 20).*

#### **Rotary Club of Billericay – Future Club Meetings and Events**

Location - Reids Billericay



**We meet on  
Mondays at  
12.45 for 13.00**

If there is a fifth  
Monday in the  
month, please  
check the website

for information.

Reids, 66-68 Laindon Road, Billericay, Es-  
sex, CM12 9LD Tel: +44 1277 632378

**July 1**

Charity Day & Handover Meeting

**July 8**

Quilters' RotaKids Achievements

**July 8** (18.30-20.30)

Joint Services Meeting & Club Council

**July 15**

Buttsbury RotaKids Achievements

**July 22**

Steve Roberts - Essex Regiment & the  
Battle of Salamanca

**July 29**

Business Meeting

**Dates For Your Diary**

**July 7**

Summerfest

**August 28**

Probable President's Day Trip